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Great Lakes Legislative Caucus Endorsed

*Senator Birkholz advances another Great Lakes Conservation
Task Force Recommendation*

Thursday, August 28, 2003- The Midwestern Office of the Council of State

Governments, yesterday, approved a plan spearheaded by Sen. Patricia Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township, to create the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus.

“I am gratified that the resolution was approved and we will soon have a caucus comprised of legislators from the eight states in the basin, and Ontario and Quebec,” said Birkholz. “We will meet on a yearly basis to exchange knowledge and perspectives in tackling some of the important issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries.”

Many of the challenges facing the Great Lakes, an unparalleled natural resource in the Midwest, are regional in nature, requiring the coordinated efforts of policymakers at all levels of government and in all jurisdictions. The new caucus will provide an opportunity for legislators to study and adopt model legislation from other jurisdictions, such as Michigan’s ballast control measures. It will also strengthen the collective role of state and provincial legislators in development of public policies governing the use, management and protection of the Great Lakes.

(MORE)

“The adoption of similar policies region wide will also help create a unified voice, emphasizing the importance of the Great Lakes issues while sending a strong message to federal lawmakers,” said Birkholz. “I thank the MLC and the Great Lakes Commission for providing support for the caucus.

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